

Washington, DC - This afternoon the United States House of Representatives passed H.R. 3963, legislation that would provide health insurance to approximately 10 million children in America. The bill invests \$35 billion dollars over 5 years for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), a program that offers health insurance for children of the working poor.

"We have a responsibility to make certain the ten million children in America, including almost half a million in the state of Texas, receive the healthcare coverage they rightfully deserve. This legislation is a historic investment in our children, their health, and accordingly, our nation's future," said Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20).

H.R. 3963 is a revised version of H.R. 976, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization Act of 2007, which was vetoed by President Bush despite its overwhelming bipartisan support in the House, Senate, and across the country. Previously, H.R. 976 opponents wrongly claimed that the bipartisan legislation provided health care for illegal immigrants, adults and children from high-income families. The revised legislation includes clarifications that address each of these concerns.

"The unprecedented amount of bipartisan support behind the original bill and the revised version further emphasizes the significance of this legislation," said Rep. Gonzalez.

"Some of the provisions can be deemed redundant but were necessary to dispel misinformation spread by opponents of this legislation," he added. "After weeks of much heated discourse, I commend my colleagues for ultimately siding with what's most important in this debate: the best interests of millions of uninsured children in America."

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